PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE: [illegible] 52	2. LOCATION: BEVERLY MASS	12. CONCLUSIONS
3. DATE-TIME GROUP: 16/[illegible] EST [illegible]35 Z	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION	
5. PHOTOS: [illegible]	6. SOURCE: 2 Coast guardsmen	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 20-30 sec	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS: 4	9. COURSE
		XXXX

10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING

Two coast guard photographers observed and photographed four bright lights over Salem coast guard station.

11. COMMENTS

1. Photo Recon. Lab. analyzes photographs as "open to doubt because there are no reflections of the [illegible] on nearby parked cars".

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

UNCLASSIFIED

DISPOSITION FORM

[redacted]

Incls w/d

FILE NO.	SUBJECT
	(Uncl) Analysis of Photos

TO WCEFP | FROM ATIAA-5 | DATE AUG 1 1952 | COMMENT NO. 1

Lt Rothstein/vs
66361/Bldg 263D/P D-28

Inclosed are photographs taken by a U.S. Coast Guard photographer. We would like these photographs analyzed.

for W Rice Capt USAF
DONALD L. BOWER, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Technical Analysis Division
Air Technical Intelligence Center

2 Incls
1. Ltr dtd 7/21/52 w/photo (in dupl)
2. Wire, Hq USAF (in dupl)

14 Y ... withdrawn (or ... Uncl ...-1.

TO ATIAA-5
Attn: Captain Ruppelt | FROM WCEFP-2 | DATE AUG 28 1952 | COMMENT NO. 2

Mr. Chapman/ms
31381/B17/R119

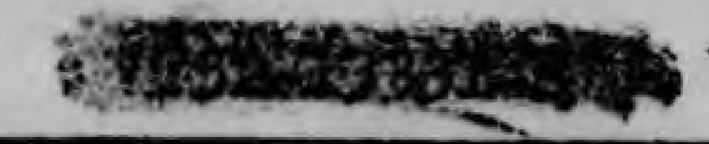
1. A study has been completed of the Coast Guard negative of unknown aerial objects. A full report to describe the steps in this study will be sent to you in a short time. Until it is completed, this brief summary will contain the findings of the Photo Reconnaissance Laboratory.

2. The central point in question is the apparent brightness of the 4 objects coupled with the total absence of any corresponding highlights or reflections of these objects from the automobiles in the picture. The brightness of these objects would appear to be of the same order of magnitude as the reflections of the sun in the chromium bumpers and trim of the automobiles. This is indicated by the inclosed prints in Series A, numbered on the reverse side in pencil, and representing: A-1 is normal print exposure time, A-2 is double this exposure time, A-3 is four times, and A-4 is eight times.

3. Further examination of the Series A prints shows no trace of highlights on the automobiles caused by the objects. All bright spots that can be seen are directly related to the sun, which is to the rear and to the left of the camera position. There are, however, surfaces which should show highlights, eg, the auto directly under the largest object. It is obviously a fairly new car, with average polish to the paint. Yet nowhere on the roof is any suggestion of an overhead illumination directly above or beyond the car.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED



DD FORM 96 1 FEB 50 REPLACES NME FORM 96, 1 OCT 48, WHICH MAY BE USED.

16—54801-3 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

[redacted] Incls w/d

4. This point has been tested experimentally in the Series B and C prints. A standard studio photoflood lamp was placed above and some 50 ft beyond a row of parked automobiles beside the Photographic Reconnaissance Laboratory. A camera was set up on an elevated platform, about 200 ft from the central auto in the photograph, indicated by the photoflood lamp appearing directly above it. The Series B prints show the cars with the lamp turned off, while the Series C prints show the same scene with the lamp on. An unmistakable bright line highlight can be seen in the car appearing directly under the lamp, a highlight which is not there when the lamp is off. A similar bright line should be seen somewhere on the top of the car in the Series A prints, had distant bright objects been actually located as indicated.

5. Series D prints show how easy it is to construct a hoax by means of double exposure. The glowing objects, hovering over the Photographic Reconnaissance Laboratory are multiple exposures of a simple street lamp, stauchion type. The film was multiply exposed at night, with a dark view field surrounding the lamp. The daytime exposure of the building was carefully oriented to produce the aerial hovering effect. However, the fraud is indicated because no highlights may be seen in the auto roofs. (The possibility of building shading in Series D is not existent in Series A).

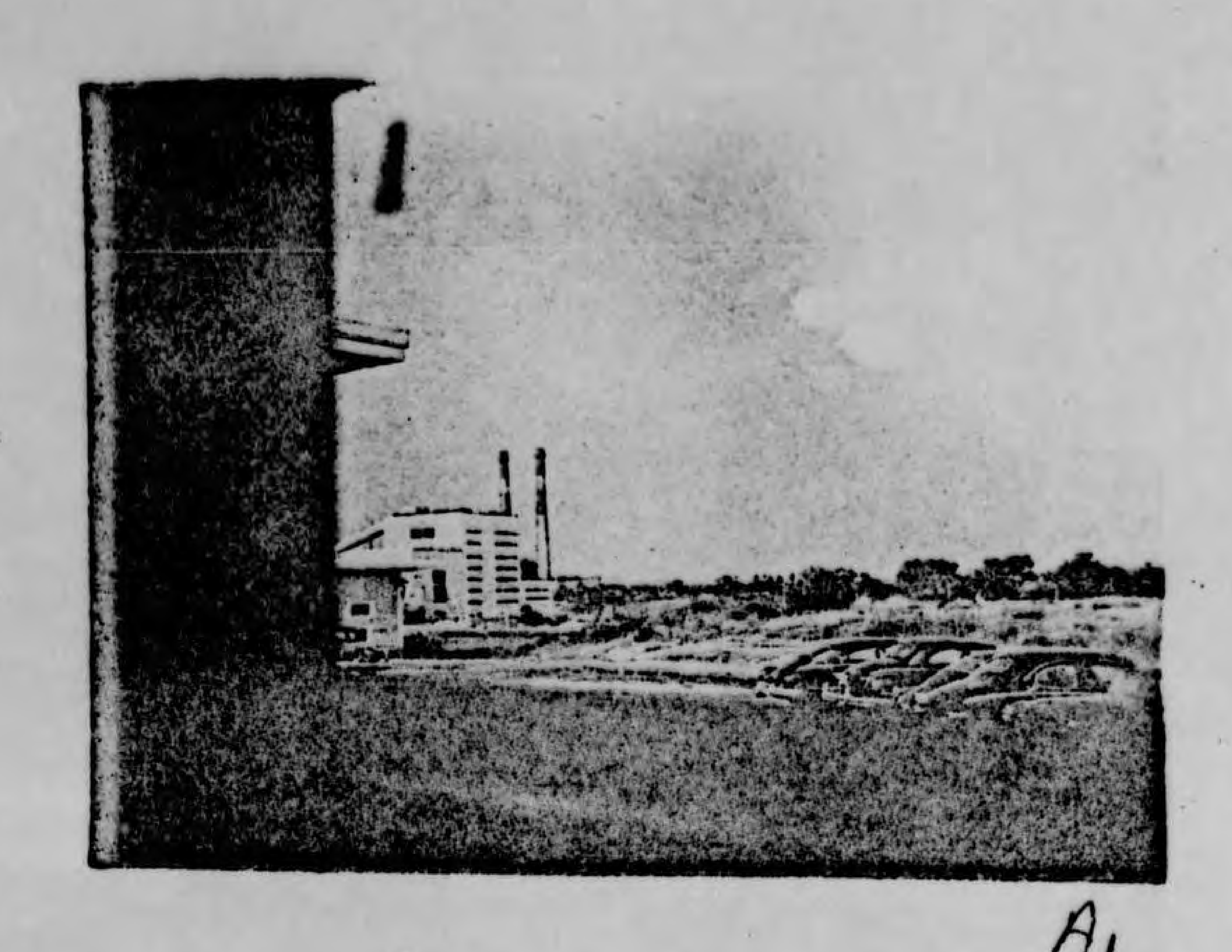
6. It is therefore concluded that the authenticity of the picture, taken by the Coast Guard photographer, is open to serious doubt.

1 Incl
Series A (4 Prints)
Series B (4 Prints)
Series C (4 Prints)
Series D (2 Prints)

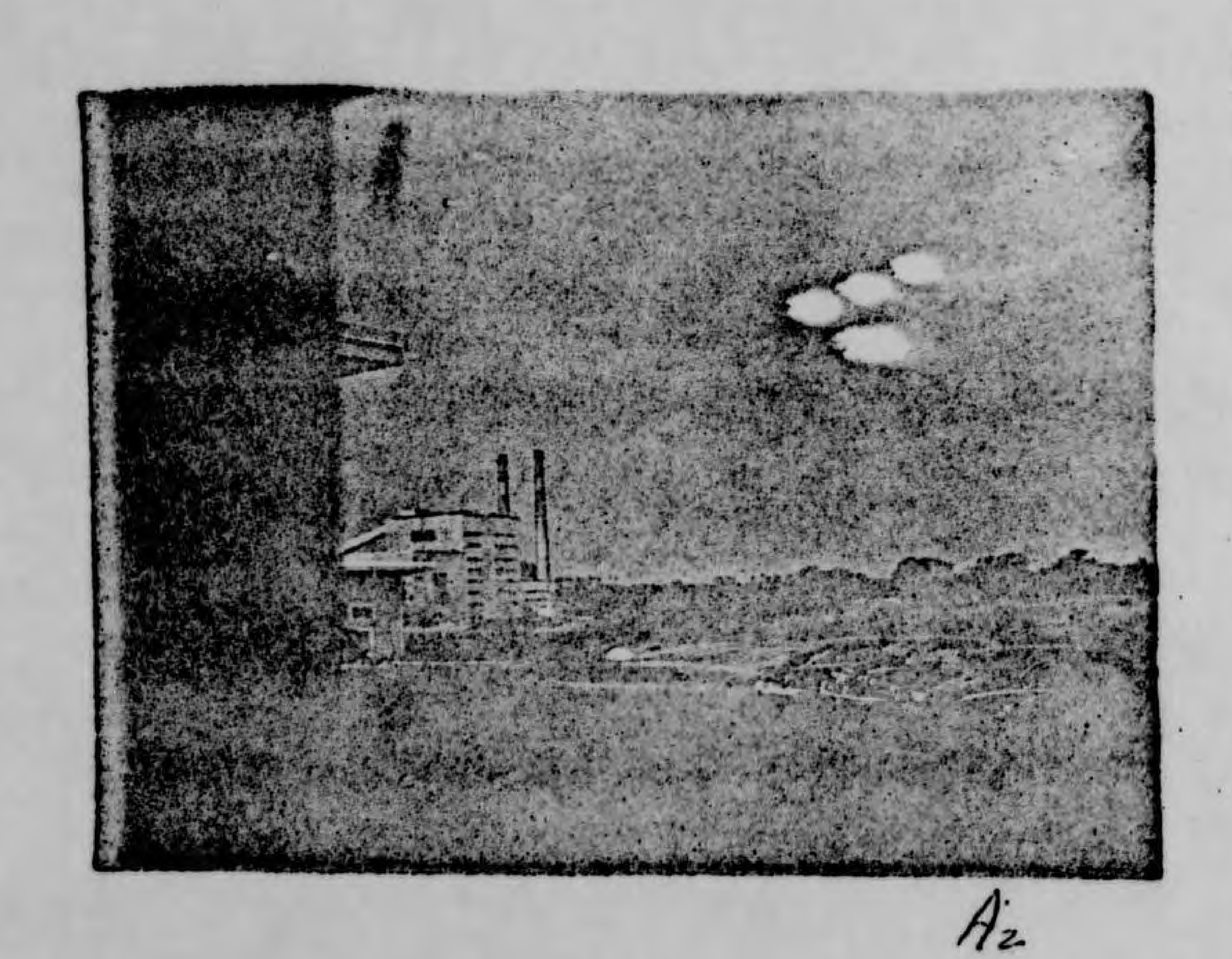
Matthews Major USAF
DELWIN B. AVERY, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Photo Reconnaissance Lab
Weapons Components Division

CONCURRENCE:
JMoore

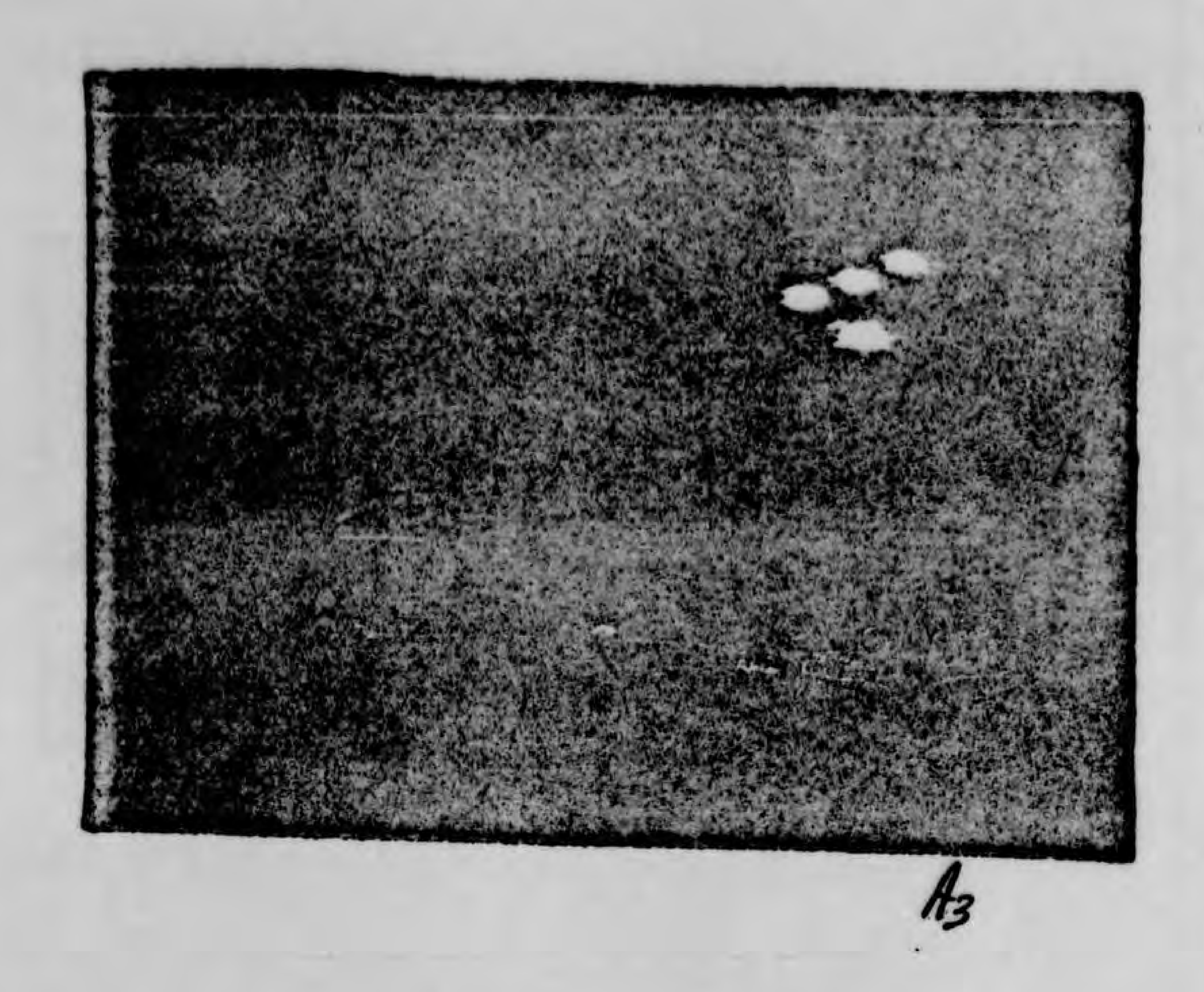
This case includes two (2) 8" X 10" photographs, fourteen (14) 4" X 5" photographs.



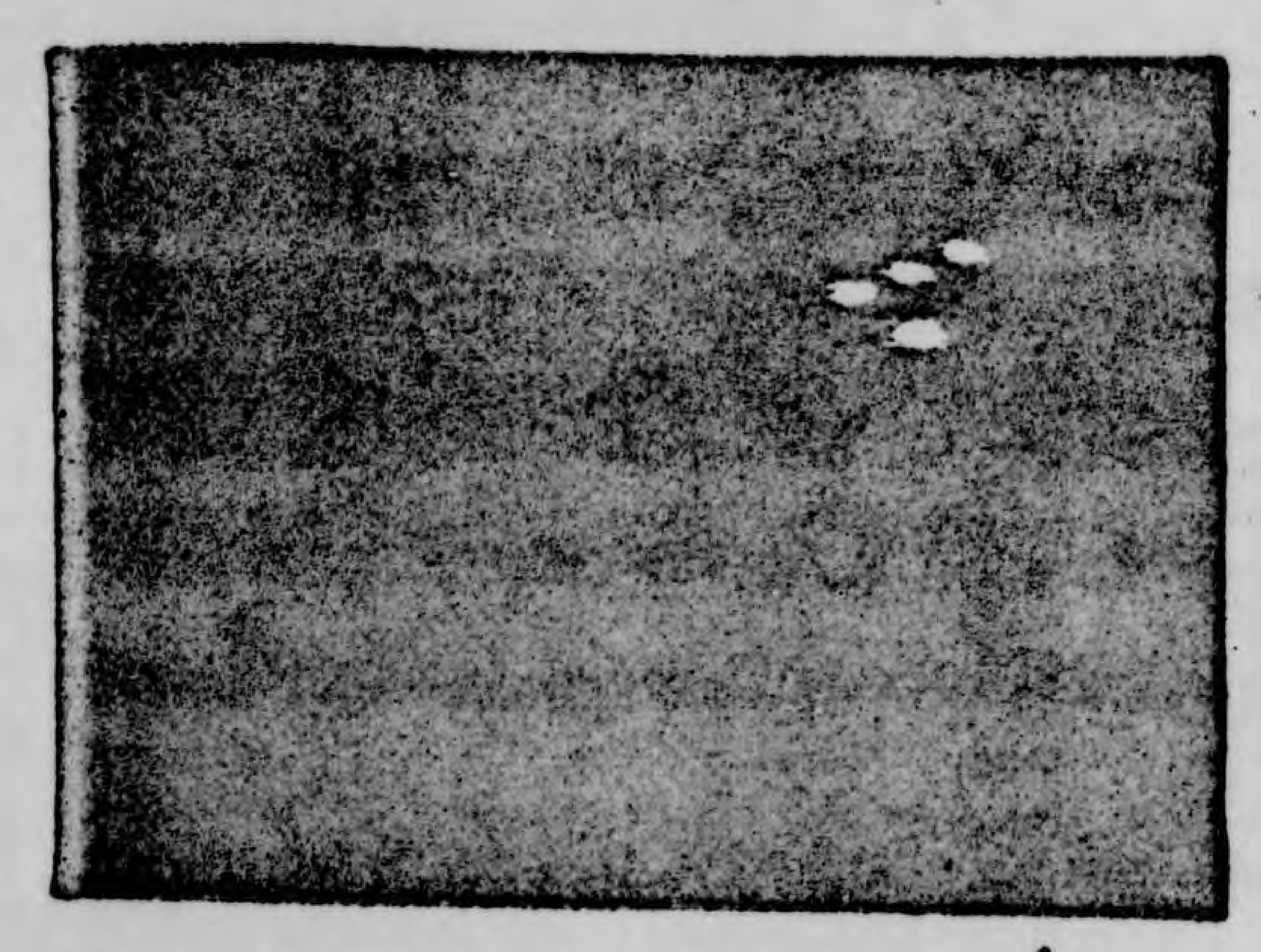
A_1



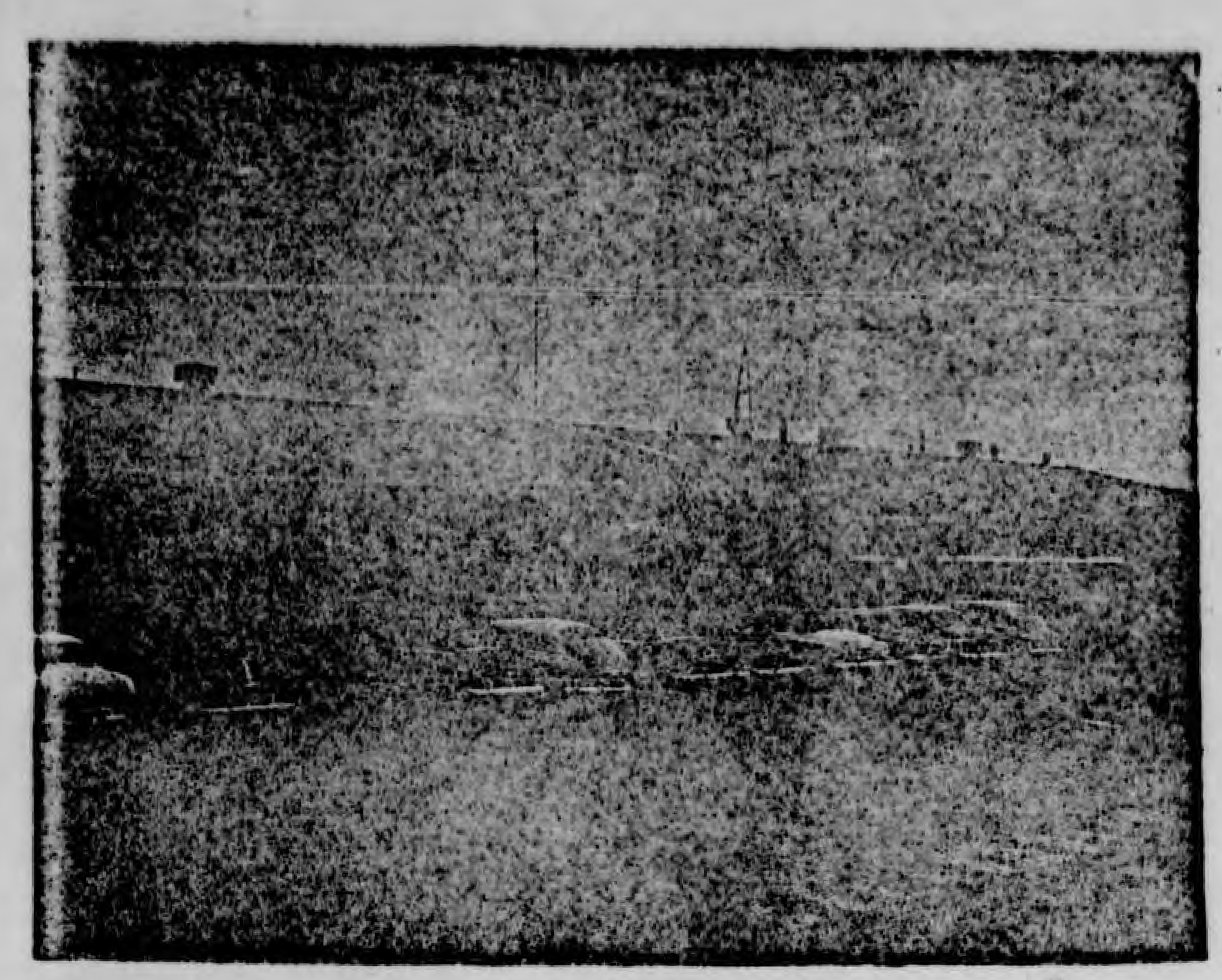
A_2



A3

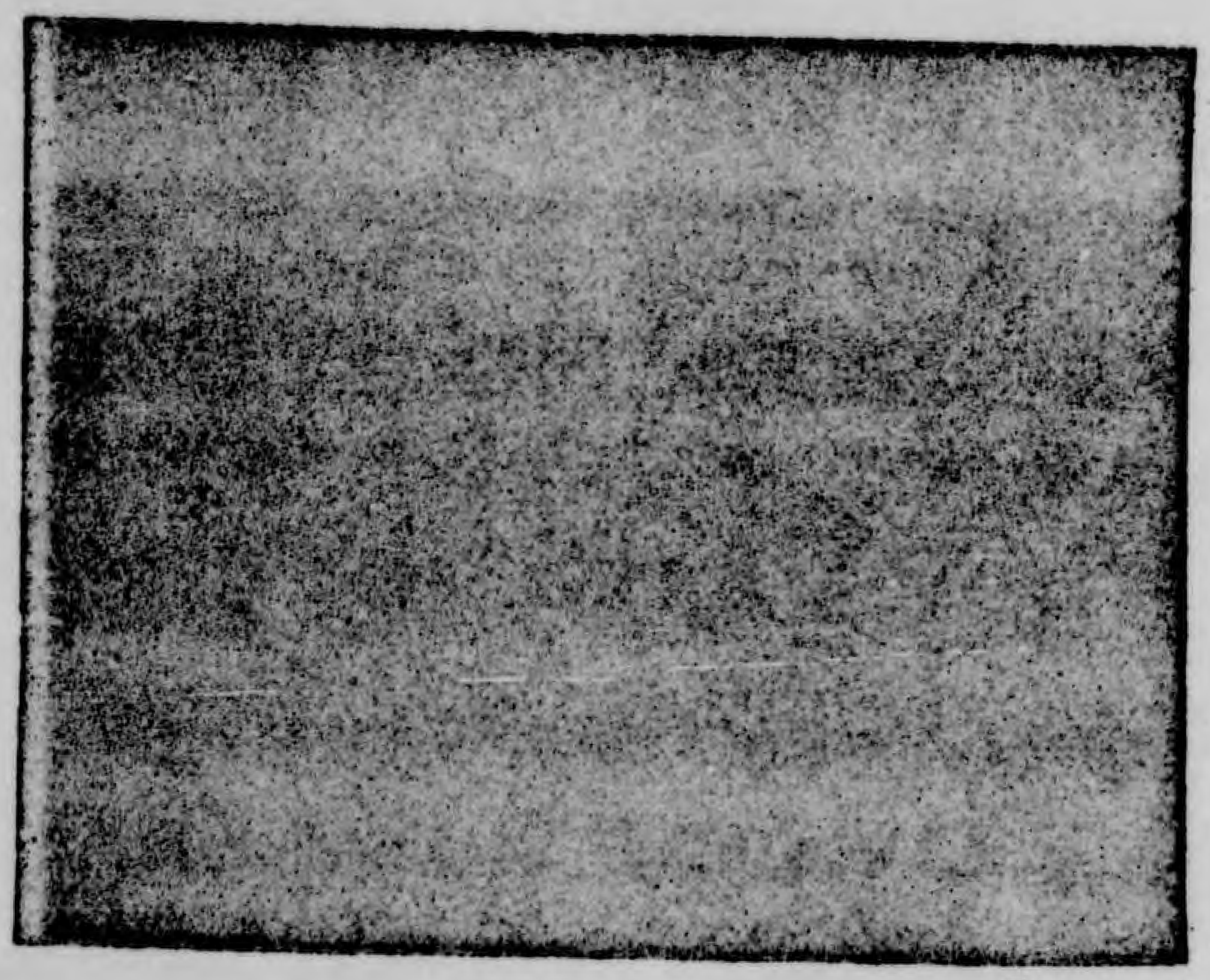


A4

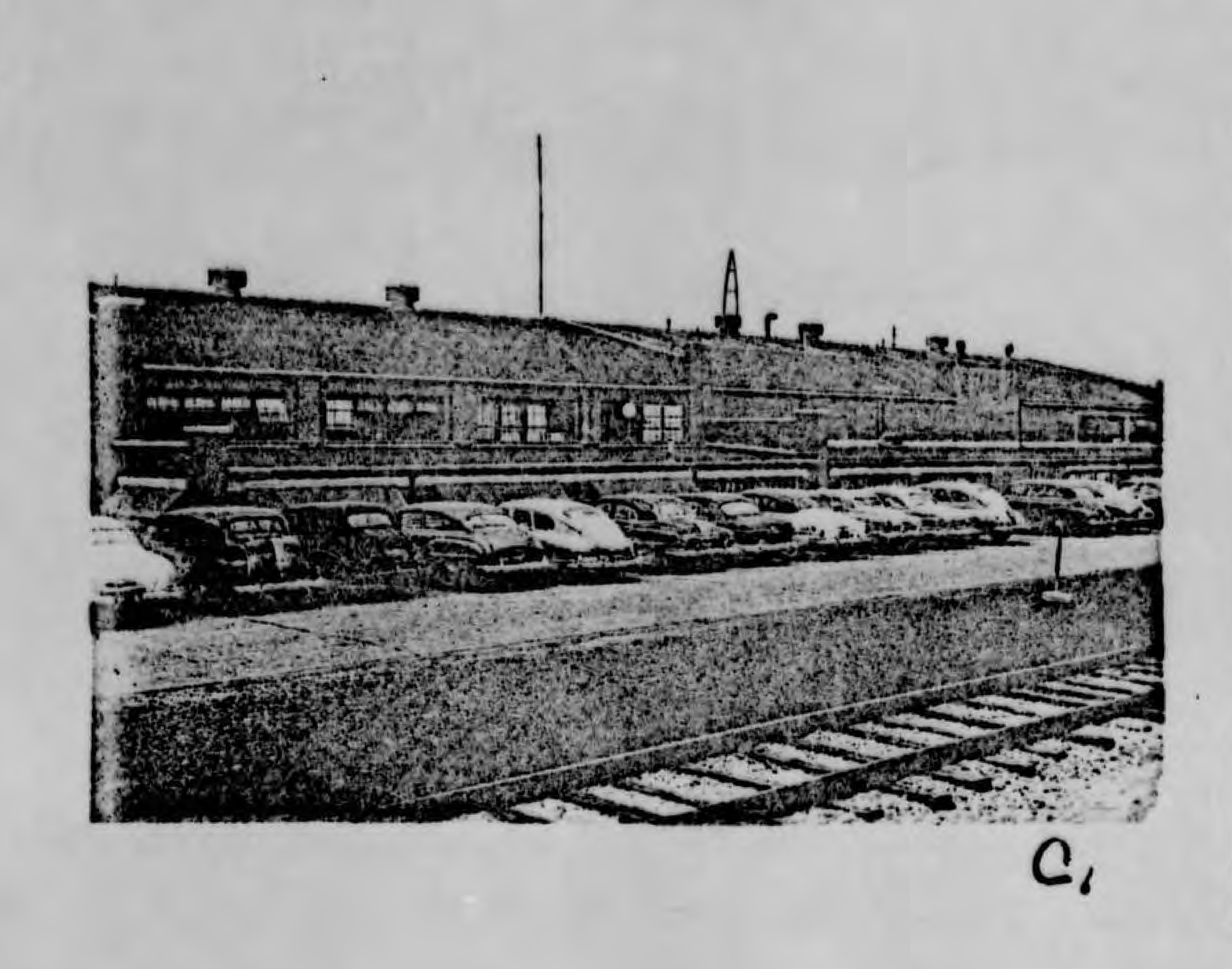




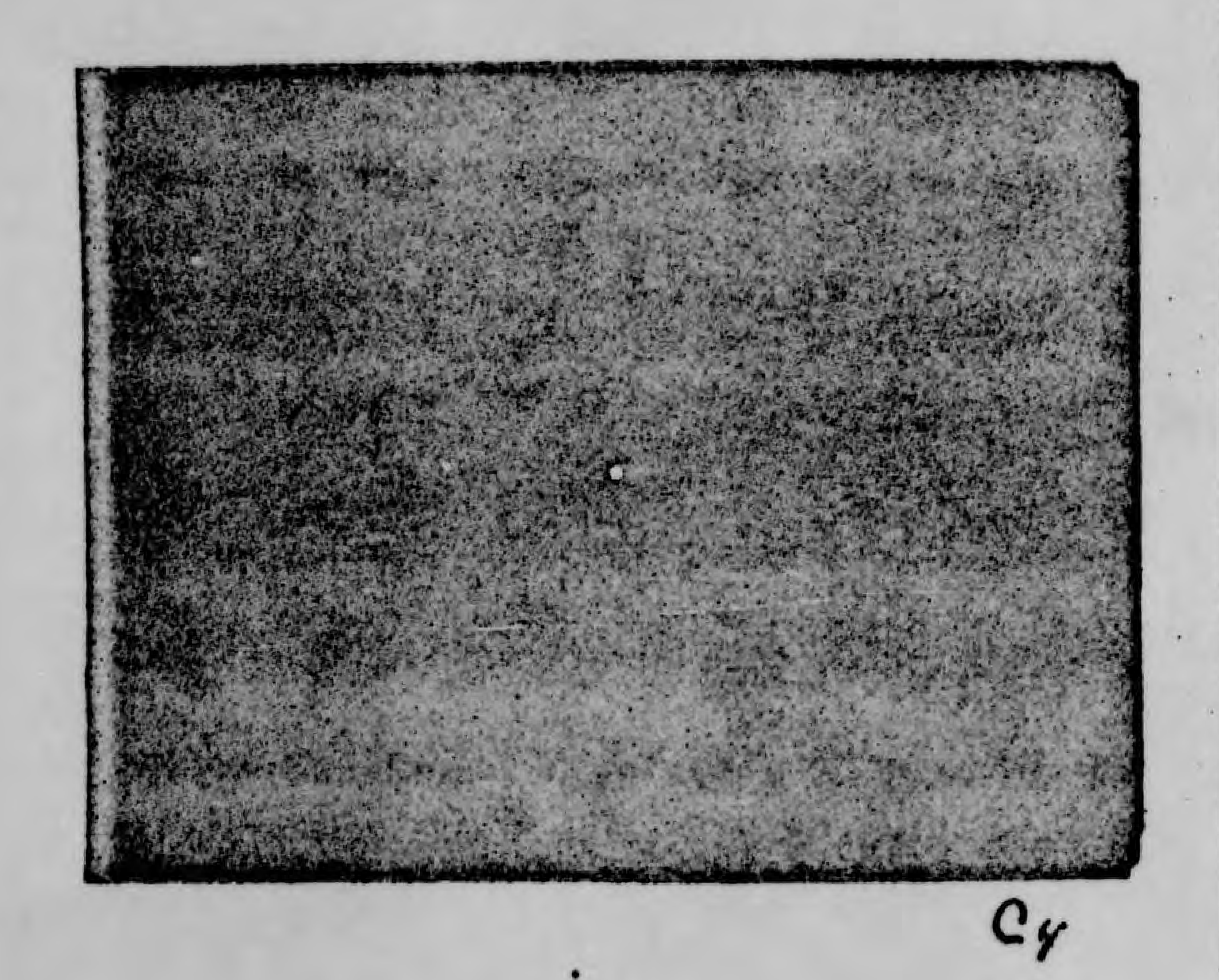
B_3



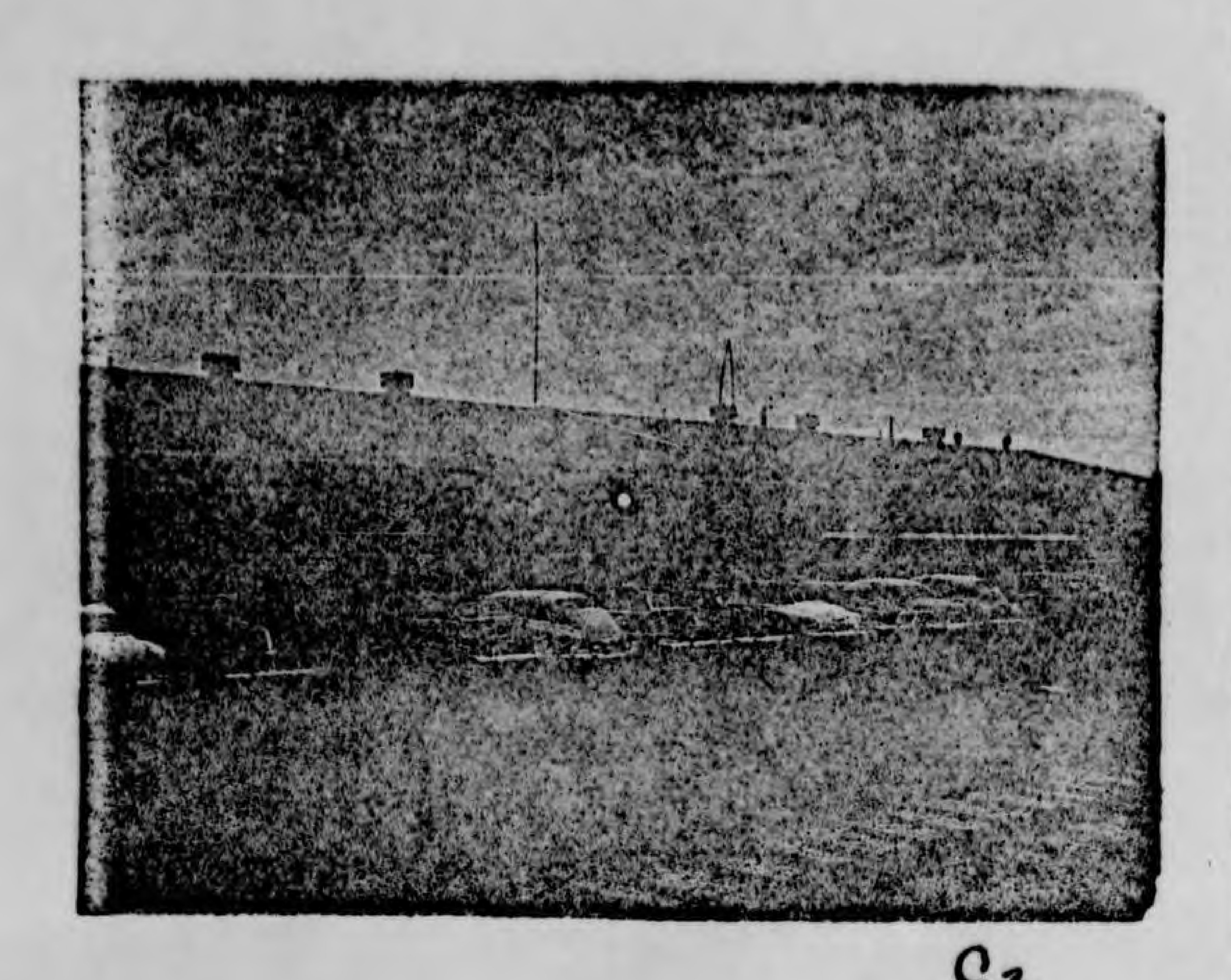
B_4



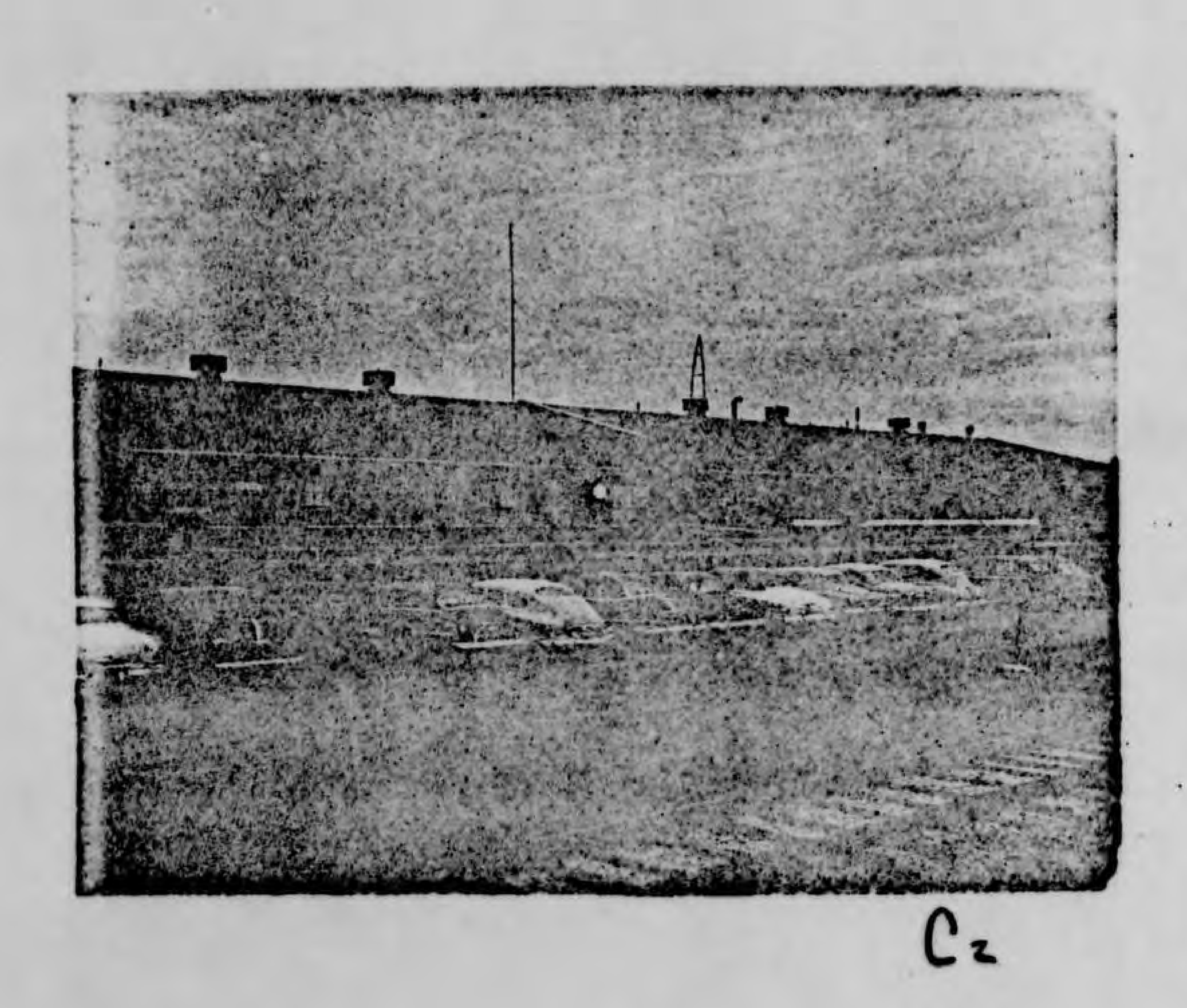
C1



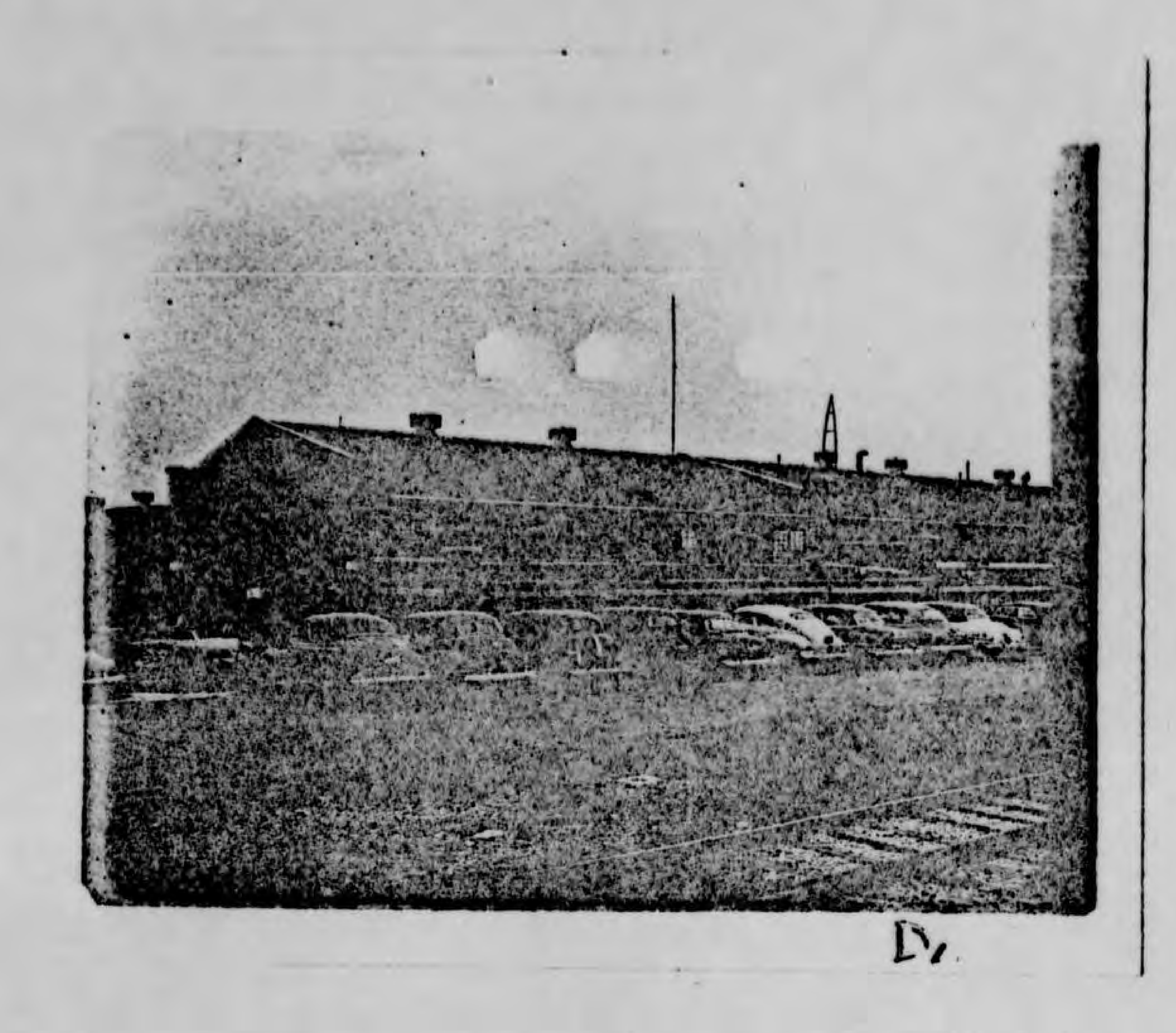
C4



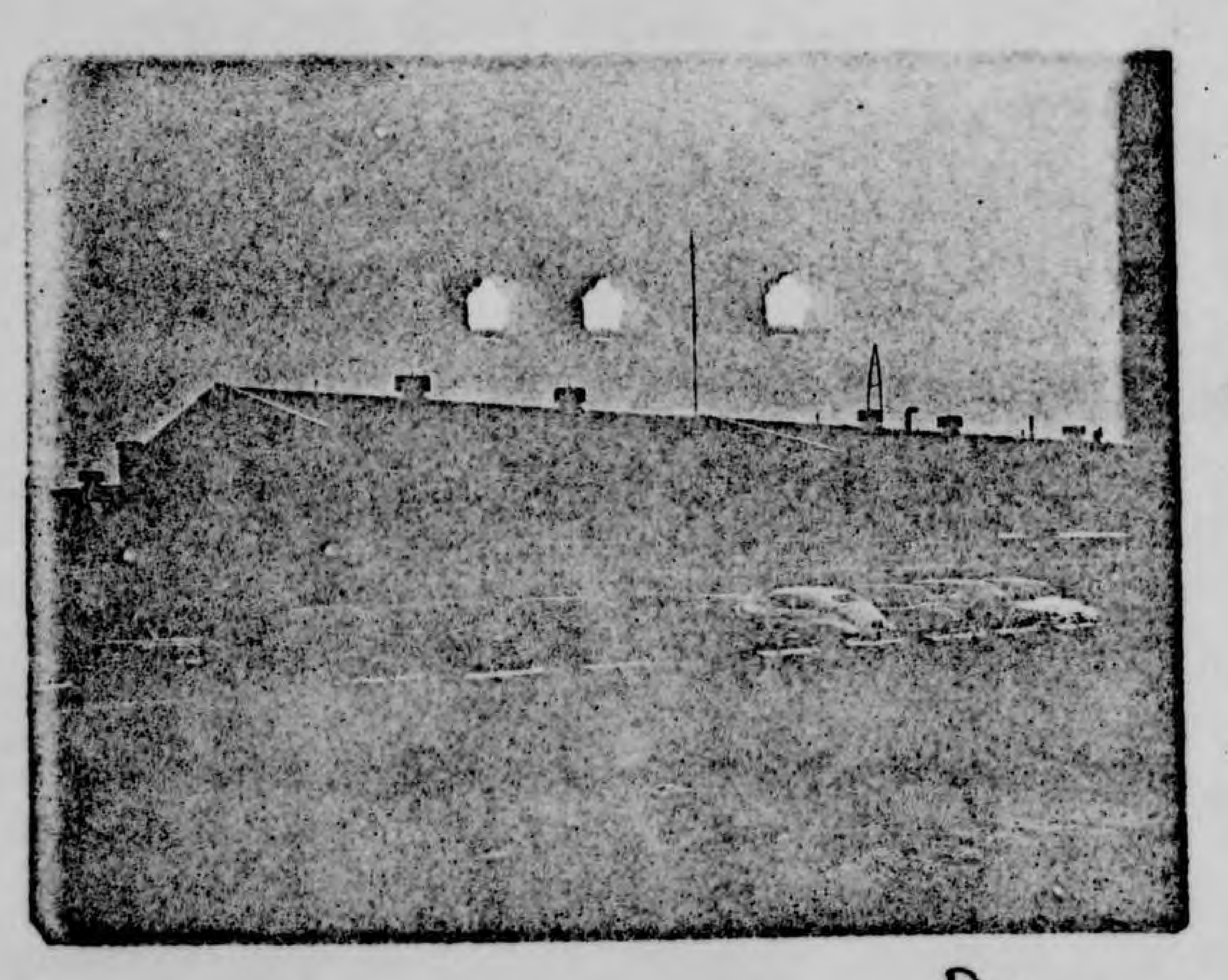
C3



C2



D1



D2

ACTION [redacted] [redacted] ATIAA
ATIA
C. Files

UNCLASSIFIED

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED, SEE CRYPTO CENTER BEFORE DECLASSIFYING

AIR Ø4
AFM DE AIR
PP JEDEN JEDWP 222
DE JEPHQ 78C
P 17Ø12ØZ
FM HQ USAF WASHDC
TO JEDEN/CGAIRDEFCOM ENT AFB COLO
JEDWP/ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO
[redacted]/FROM AFOIN 53833 ATIC ATTN ATIAA-2C. THE FOLLOWING CABLE FROM CGAS SALEM MASS IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION CLN "SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS UNIDENTIFIABLE SIGHTED BY 2 RELIABLE ENLISTED MEN THIS UNIT AT Ø935Q FROM AIR STATION. 4 OBJECTS CIRCULAR IN SHAPE. IN V FORMATION APPARENTLY OVER BEVERLY MASSACHUSETTS LOW ALTITUDE. ORIGINALLY SIGHTED BY STATION PHOTOGRAPHER. ATTENTION ATTRACTED BY VERY BRIGHT LIGHT. CLEAR PHOTOGRAPH OBTAINED. COPIES BEING AIRMAILED THIS DATE TO ACTION AND INFORMATION ADEES. WEATHER. CLEAR. THIN BROKEN 28ØØØ FEET VISIBILITY 6 MILES WINDS SOUTHWEST 8 KNOTS ALTIMETER 3ØØ5 TEMP 84"
17/Ø132Z JUL JEPHQ

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

((

UFO SIGHTING
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS
16 July 1952

On 16 July 1952 a photograph of four objects was taken by the USCG station photographer at Salem, Massachusetts. The photograph was submitted to ATIC for analysis and the analysis was completed on 1 Aug 52. Analysis was made from the original negative which was returned to the Coast Guard at their request. The results of this analysis indicated that the photo was a hoax. Extensive photographs were taken under similar conditions. Failure of the light source to cast reflections on the highly polished cars below indicated that the light was not outside and it was assumed by the analyst at the time, that the photo was a double exposure and for this reason was a hoax. A subsequent examination of this photo was made in October 1963 and the following analysis is indicated as a more probable cause.

The photo was taken through a window with a 4/5 Busch Pressman Camera (135 MM F4.7 Raptar lens with Rapax shutter, loaded with 4/5 Super XX cut film). The photographer observed several lights which seemed to be wavering. He observed the lights for 5 or 6 seconds and grabbed the camera, which had been on a nearby table. The focus was adjusted to infinity. The photographer pulled the slide in preparation for the picture when he noticed that the lights had dimmed. He assumed at the time that the object he saw was a reflection. He ran out of the room to get an additional witness, and upon returning noticed that the lights were again brilliant. When they went to the window the lights were gone. He again stated that perhaps some sort of refraction or ground reflection could possibly account for the lights.

The following points are deemed pertinant to analysis. The camera was focused on infinity and the picture taken through a window. As the witness approached the window the objects dimmed, as he returned to his point of initial observation and at the second observation as he reentered the room the lights were again brilliant. The objects as photographed, appear fuzzy and out of focus. The cars and buildings outside are sharply outlined. The window frame inside the building is out of focus. All four objects have the same outline and general configuration, in spite of the blurring.

Conclusion: It is believed that the photos represent light reflections from an interior source (probably the ceiling lights) on the window through which the photo was taken. With the camera set on infinity the window would be more out of focus than the lights. The lights would still be out of focus since the distance from the lights to the window and back to the camera lens would still be shorter than the distance required for

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDANT
U. S. COAST GUARD
HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



CPI
1 August 1952

Captain [redacted]
Air Force Technical Intelligence
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Captain [redacted]

At the request of Major Fournet, Air Force Intelligence, Pentagon, Washington, we are sending you the original negative of the aerial phenomena photograph for your scrutiny.

When you have finished with it, we would like to have it back.

Very truly yours,

W. D. STRAUCH, JR.
Lieutenant Commander, USCG
Acting Chief, Public Information Division

Encl-Original Negative
U. S. Coast Guard Official Photo # 5554

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDANT
U. S. COAST GUARD
HEADQUARTERS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



CPI
18 August, 1952

AIRMAIL REGISTERED MAIL

Captain [redacted]
Air Tech. Intelligence Center
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Captain [redacted]

In accordance with the telephonic request of Major D. J. J. Fournet, we are forwarding herewith two depositions and investigation report of unusual aerial phenomena. This material, previously classified secret, has been declassified.

Very truly yours,

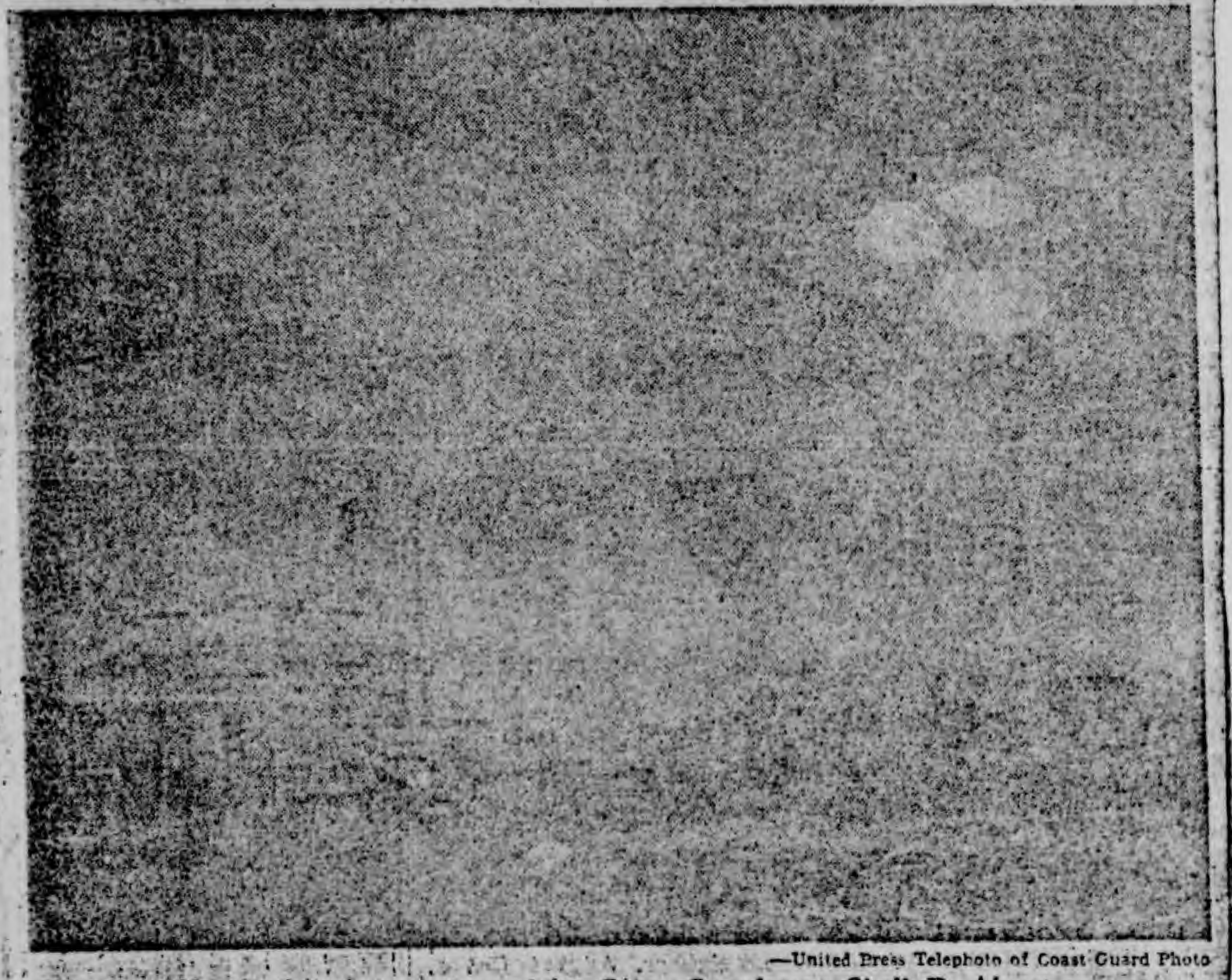
W. D. STRAUCH, JR.
LCDR, USCG
Acting Chief, Public Information Division

Incls:
Deposition of [redacted]
Deposition of [redacted]
Agent's report

16-l

Oltimes News Aug 1, 1952

Flying Saucers, Disks, or What? The Camera Catches 4 of Them



—United Press Telephoto of Coast Guard Photo

Here's the picture snapped by Coast Guardsman Shell R. Alpert.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—(UP)—Coast Guard Headquarters today made public a photograph of "unidentified aerial phenomena" taken by a Coast Guard photographer.

The photo clearly shows four round objects. Each appears to have two identical shafts of light extending across its center and protruding at the forward and rear ends. The lights are in a "V" formation.

The Coast Guard said it had no opinion as to the cause or source of the objects and was releasing the picture only because of the widespread public interest in aerial phenomena.

The picture was snapped by Shell R. Alpert, Salem, Mass., Air Station photographer, who said he sighted several brilliant white lights through the station's photo lab window at 9:35 a. m., July 16.

Alpert watched the lights for five or six seconds before attempting to photograph them. By the time he had focused his camera the lights were reported "considerably dimmed down."

16 July 52

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1952

Flying Saucers?—A Coast Guard Photograph

Herald Tribune—United Press from United States Coast Guard

Photograph released by the Coast Guard yesterday made July 16 by Shell R. Alpert at Coast Guard Air Station in Salem, Mass.

Coast Guard Gets Picture of 'Objects' in Sky

'Saucer' in a Parking Lot, Shown in Photo of Four, Proves To Be White Rock

By C. B. Allen

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1.—Coast Guard headquarters today released a picture of "four round objects" or lights snapped when they appeared briefly in the sky near the Salem, Mass., Coast Guard air station at 9:35 a. m. July 16. It said the "phenomenal photograph" was the first daylight one ever made "of—what are they?" but emphasized that the Coast Guard was in no way sponsoring the reality of "flying saucers."

Officials who gave the pictures to the press said they vouched only for the fact that the original had been taken by Shell R. Alpert, a twenty-one-year-old Coast Guard photographer, of Denver, in the presence of Thomas Flaherty, of Marblehead, Mass., a hospitalman first class at the air station.

The Coast Guard did say that the negative had not been "tampered with in any way." The officials added that the four "objects" in it resembled a salvo burst of shells from an anti-aircraft battery but said there was no Army or Navy firing range in the vicinity of Salem.

"Saucer" in Parking Lot

Only after the pictures had been given out did Coast Guard headquarters discover what appeared to be a far more perfect "saucer" than the aerial lights neatly grounded at the edge of a parking

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM AND SUN, WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1952.

SALEM, M

W.T.&S. July 30, 1952

AF Studying Photograph of Disk Formation

By JIM G. LUCAS,
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer.

WASHINGTON, July 30.—The Air Force is checking the authenticity of a photograph which purports to show five flying saucers in formation over Salem, Mass.

The picture was taken by Coast Guardsmen at Salem last Thursday about 10 a.m. It was flown to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington and then turned over to the Air Force. It is now at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, where flying saucer reports are investigated and evaluated. I saw it yesterday in the Pentagon.

Capt. E. J. Ruppelt, the Air Force's flying saucer expert, had it in his briefcase—unmentioned—through a press conference in which Maj. Gen. John A. Samford, Air Force intelligence chief, discounted recent saucer sightings over Washington. Capt. Ruppelt still had it in his briefcase when he took a plane for Dayton an hour later.

Won't Get Frantic.

Gen. Samford said he is "convinced in my own mind" that the saucers picked up by radar over Washington are the result of sudden changes in temperature. He said they are not secret weapons or machines produced in this country. He was equally sure they were not coming from another country. He discounted the idea they came from another planet.

Gen. Samford conceded that a number of "credible observers" have reported "some relatively incredible things." He said the Air Force will continue to give flying saucer reports "adequate but not frantic attention."

Believes What's Proved.

In the Salem picture, the flying saucers—if that's what they are—appear egg-shaped white objects with wavy edges suspended in air. If the photograph can be accepted at face value, it is the first daylight picture of flying saucers. Although several photographs of what purport to be flying saucers have been taken, all were snapped at night. The Air Force invariably has explained them away as meteors, rockets or bursting fireballs.

Although the sky is light in the photo, the white objects which may be flying are easily distinguishable. They somewhat resemble, but could not be confused with clouds. There are several buildings in the foreground.

Capt. Ruppelt, who was spent several years checking and plotting flying saucer reports, said he is skeptical. Attempts have been made to hoodwink him in the past and he believes nothing which cannot be proved.

He points out that a single photograph was submitted. There was no negative. That invariably happens, he said. The Air Force has yet to get hold of a negative of a flying saucer picture.

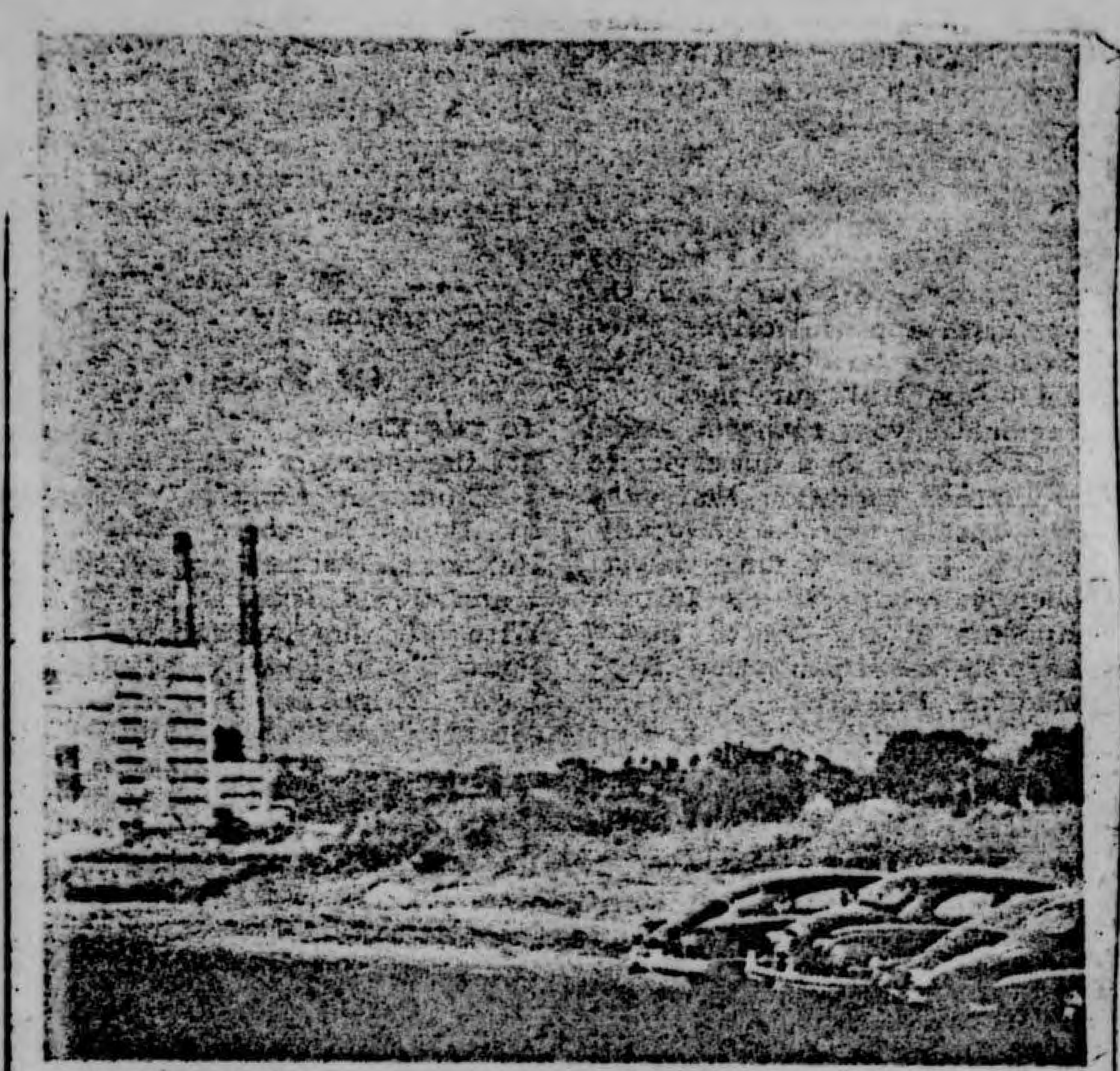
Wants to See Nagative.

Capt. Ruppelt said he has asked Coast Guard to obtain the negative and forward it to him.

Without questioning anyone's integrity, Capt. Ruppelt said his first impression was that the picture is a fake. He said the alleged saucers appear to have been painted in. Their somewhat irregular, wavy edges indicate as much, he said.

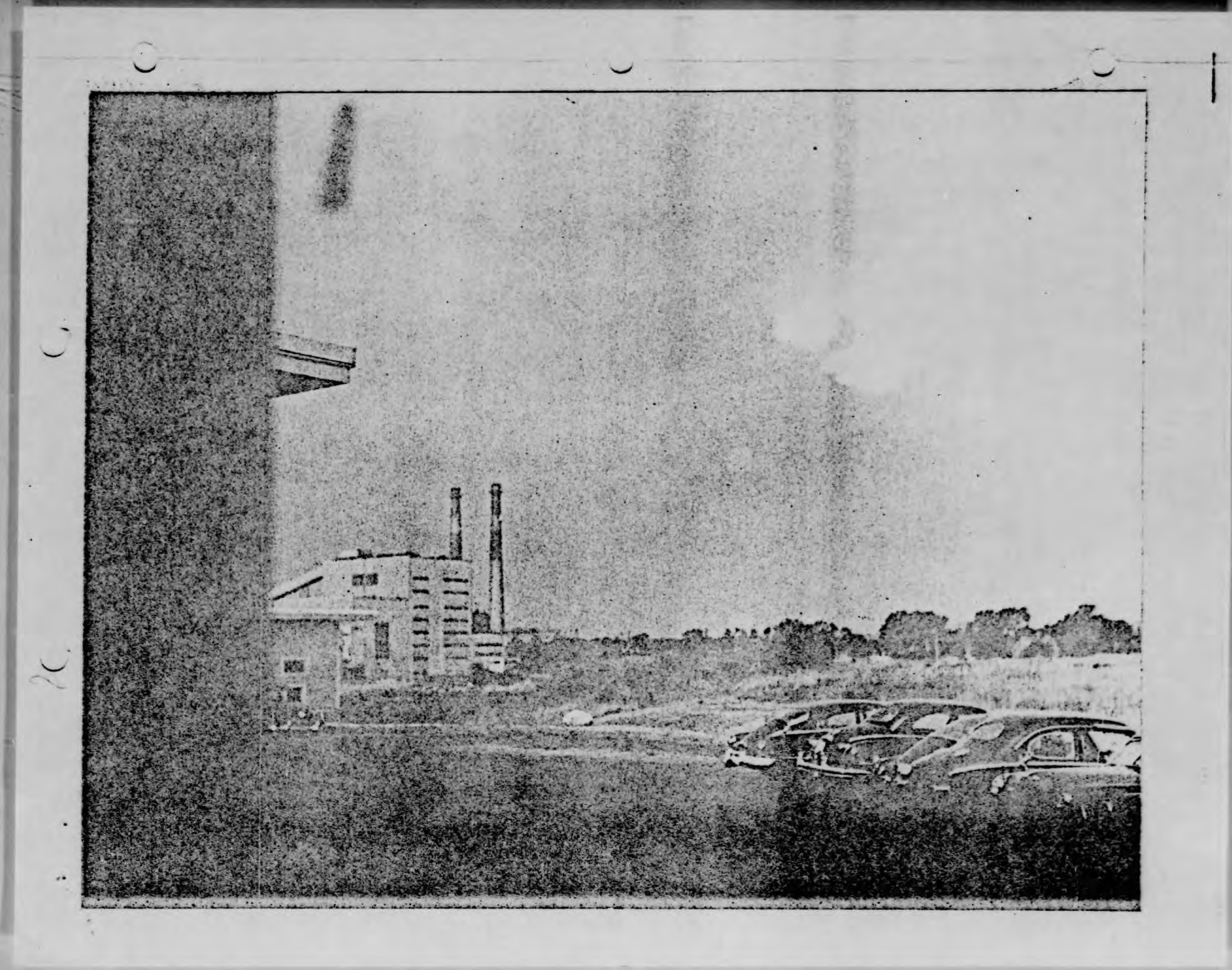
I wouldn't know. Capt. Ruppelt is a trained observer, who makes it his business to look for such things. I could easily be fooled by a composite picture.

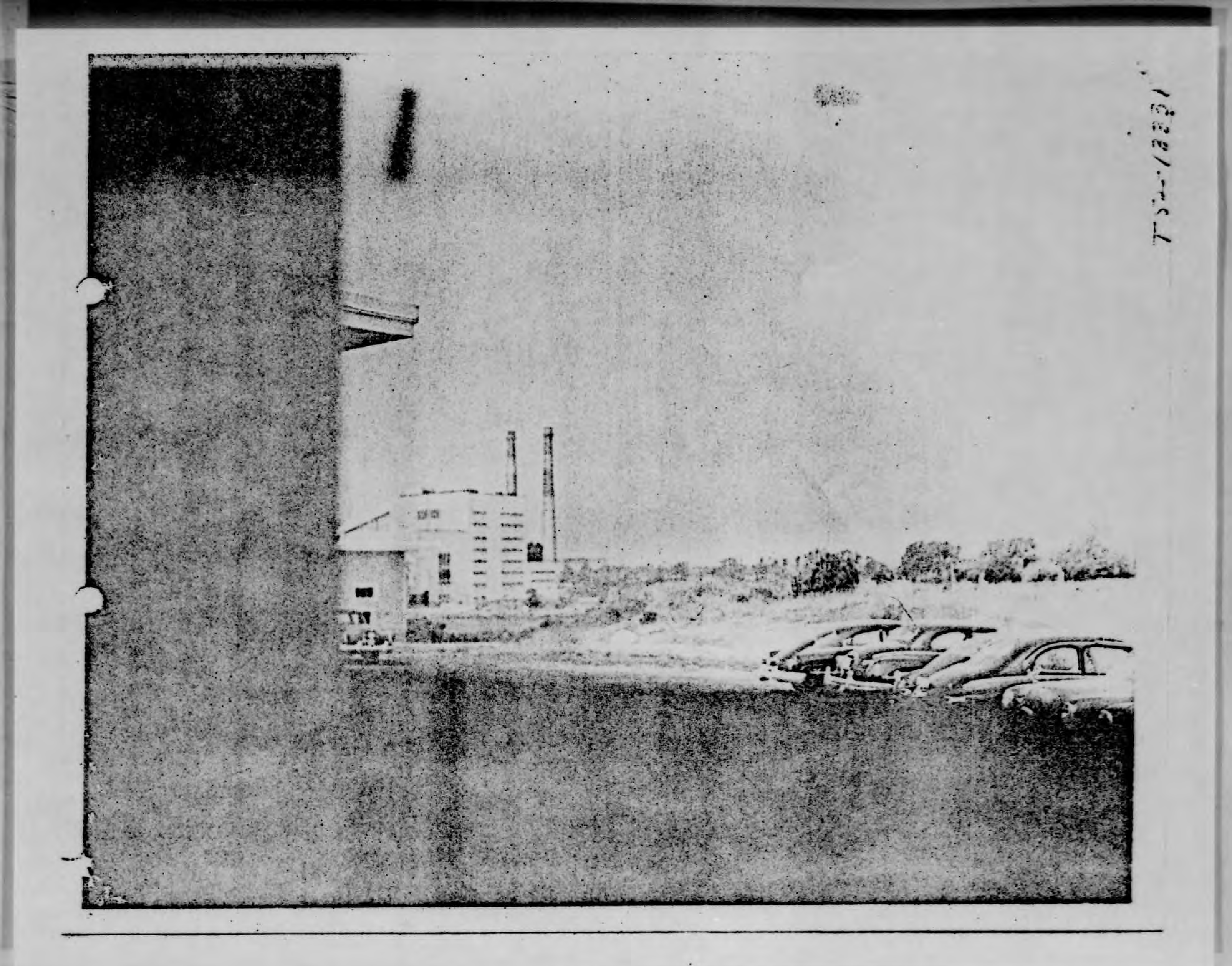
SALEM, MASS
N.Y. HT. Book Section
July, 1952



A Coast Guard photograph taken on July 16, 1952, at an air station in Salem, Mass. The Coast Guard caption, headed "What Are They?" called its picture "phenomenal" and described the objects in the sky as "brilliant lights."

THE





16 JULY 1952 — BEVE[illegible]MASSACHUSETTS
SALEM

a clear picture with the lens setting on infinity. The objects outside the building would be in focus. The apparant brightness of the reflection would decrease as the photographer approached the window. The initial photo analysis indicating the magnitude of the light and substantiation of fact that the light source was not external is correct. There is no indication of any attempt to perpertrate a hoax. The photo received is similar to many others taken through windows which have been confirmed as reflections of an interior light source. Had the camera been focused for a shorter distance the outlines of the interior light sources would have been sharper. It is believed that there is sufficient evidence to substantiate the evaluation of this photo as reflections of internal light sources.

COPY

Treasury Department
U.S. Coast Guard
CG-2947 (8-47)

AGENT'S REPORT

SUBJECT	REPORTING UNIT
Unidentified airborne objects; Observation of; report of	Intelligence, 1CGD(opl)
ORIGIN OF CASE	DATE
Commander, First Coast Guard District (opl)	17 July 1952
INVESTIGATORS	DISTRIBUTION
R. G. EASTMAN	C1CGD OIN file

This investigation was predicated on information received from the CO, Coast Guard Air Station, Salem, Massachusetts, concerning unidentified airborne objects sighted near the Air Station.

[redacted] (292-624) SN, official photographer for the Air Station was interviewed at 0845, 17 July 1952, in the photo lab at the Air Station. Statement enclosed.

[redacted] (273-206) HM1, was interviewed in the sick bay at the Air Station at 0930, 17 July 1952, Statement enclosed.

The above are the only known eye-witnesses to subject objects. No factual information could be learned concerning the size, shape, altitude, speed, sound or direction of motion, of the objects.

All personnel interviewed or questioned were informed that any information concerning the objects was "SECRET" and should not be discussed with any one without permission from the CO.

/s/ [redacted]

Refer
JANAP 146 A
F.G.E.

Encls:
(a) Statement of [redacted]
(b) Statement of [redacted]
(c) Photos

Declassified
7-29-52 F.G.E.

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY:

W. D. STRAUCH, JR., LCDR, USCG

COPY

STATEMENT OF UNUSUAL OCCURANCES OBSERVED AND PHOTOGRAPHED APPROXIMATELY 0935, 16 July, 1952 from photo office window, U. S. COAST GUARD AIR STATION, Salem, Mass. by Station Photographer:

I was sitting in the Photo Office filing negatives with my back toward the window when I turned slightly in the direction of the window and noticed something bright outside. I observed the sky and saw what appeared to be several bright — almost brilliant — lights slightly on the starboard side of the power plant smoke stacks. I could not determine:

1- Size of lights
2- Number of lights
3- Altitude of lights
4- Sound, if any
5- Speed of lights, if any
6- Direction of lateral or vertical motion
7- Shape of lights

The color temperature of the lights was a high number of Kelvin degrees-- extremely brilliant and white. They seemed to be wavering but I am not certain of this. I observed these lights for possibly 5 or 6 seconds and then turned to a 4/5 Busch Pressmah Camera (135 MM F4.7 Raptar lens with a Rapax shutter, loaded with 4/5 Super XX cut film). I had this camera on the desk in order to clean the lens and was not certain there was film in it. I adjusted the focusing scale roughly to infinity, pulled the slide and prepared to shoot the picture when I noticed the lights were considerably dimmed down. I assumed that what I had seen was merely some sort of reflection, but I rushed out of the lab into the Sick Bay and got [redacted] HM1 to come back to the window with me. As I entered the office, I noticed that the lights were again burning brightly and without saying anything to [redacted] I dived for the camera and hit the shutter, after which I told him to look out and as he and I did there was a momentary flash and we could no longer see any lights. I developed the film which was exposed at about 1/50th second, f 4.7; in Dektol 1:1 for about 3 3/4 minutes, the developing agent immediately at hand. After I had fixed and washed the negative, I took it to CDR. [redacted] XO for his examination.

It was an extremely hot day and I think that perhaps some sort of refraction of ground reflections could possibly have accounted for the lights, but in my estimation this is an improbable explanation. The lens was quite dirty and so was the window screen. I cannot in all honesty say that I saw objects or aircraft, merely some manner of lights.

Submitted 17 July, 1952

/s/ [redacted]
Station Photographer

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY:

W. D. STRAUCH, JR., LCDR, USCG

Declassified 7-29-52
F.G.E.

COPY

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Address reply to:

File:

17 July, 1952.

Statement of unusual occurance observed by Base Hospitalman at approximately 0930, 16 July, 1952, from photo lab window, CG Air Station, Salem, Mass.

While working on daily reports I was summoned by Base Photographer, one [redacted] SN(PH) who called me to hurry and look at airborne lights. Looking out the window to the North West there appeared to be what was thought to be a quick flash. I actually could not say that it was anything. It could have been reflections from passing cars or from the ocean.

/s/ [redacted]

Declassified 7-29-52
F.G.E.

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE COPY:

W. D. STRAUCH, JR., LCDR, USCG

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

16 Jul 52
Salem, Mass.

21 JUL 1952

1D-OSI 24-C-259

SPOT INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SUBJECT: (Unclassified) Reporting of Information on Unconventional Aircraft (Salem, Massachusetts) SPECIAL INQUIRY

TO: Director of Special Investigations
Headquarters, USAF
Washington 25, D. C.

SYNOPSIS:

On 16 July 1952, at approximately 0935 hours, [redacted], USCG Station Photographer, U. S. Coast Guard Air Station, Salem, Mass., observed four (4) unidentified airborne objects west of the station. A photograph of the objects was taken. No activity or condition developed that accounts for sighting.

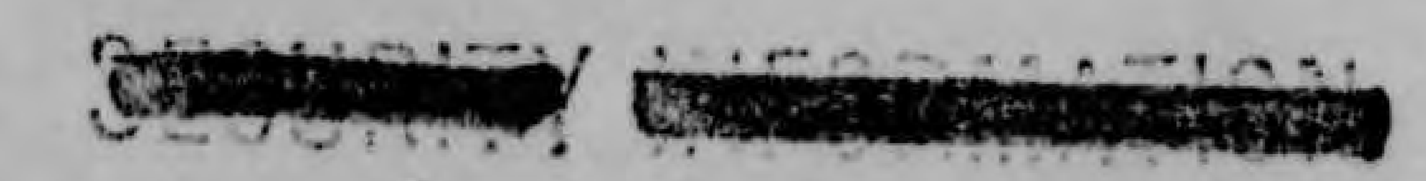
DETAILS:

At 1145 hours, 16 July 1952, a telephone call was received from [redacted] Commander, USCG, Commanding Officer, U. S. Coast Guard Air Station, Salem, Mass., reporting that two of his men had observed unusual airborne objects at approximately 0935 hours, 16 July 1952, and that one of the men had taken a photograph of the objects. On 16 July 1952, Commander MC CUE was contacted by Special Agent [redacted], and the following information obtained:

a. [redacted], USCG, Station Photographer, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station, Salem, Mass., noticed a very brilliant light in the sky west of the station. [redacted] grabbed his camera and took a photograph of the brilliant light. [redacted] called [redacted], 273-206 HM-1, USCG, who was in the same building and also saw a bright light in the sky. ALPERT furnished the following information.



UNCLASSIFIED DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;



[redacted]

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

b. Three (3) objects glowing bright and then light and disappeared like a light being dimmed with a rheostat. Objects appeared to waver slightly and glow as a light source. [redacted] could not determine the shape nor formation, aerodynamic features, or propulsion system. [redacted] did not see any trail, exhaust, or maneuvers. [redacted] did not hear any sound and could not tell if the objects were moving. After ALPERT developed the photograph, he noted that there was a difference in numbers than what he had observed.

c. Objects sighted by [redacted] at approximately 0935 hours, 16 July 1952 and were observed for approximately 25 - 30 seconds.

d. Observed by [redacted] through a fine mesh screen window. Photograph was taken through the same window with a 4 x 5 Busch Pressman, with an f 4.7 raptar lens, 135 mm, with settings of f 4.7 at 1/50th of a second, on Kodak Super XX film.

f. [redacted] has been a member of the U. S. Coast Guard for one and one-half years, and previously attended the Art Center School, Los Angeles, California. [redacted] was a member of the U. S. Navy for two years, seven months, and U. S. Coast Guard for five years, four months. Commander [redacted] advised that [redacted] is an excellent photographer, and that both [redacted] and [redacted] are very stable and reliable.

g. Weather conditions, as reported by U. S. Coast Guard Station Aerology Office for 0923 hours, 16 July 1952, are as follows: thin, broken clouds at 23,000 ft., visibility six (6) miles, wind southwest eight (8) knots, altimeter setting 3.05, temperature 84° F.

h. No activity or condition is known that might account for the sighting.

i. Photograph taken of the objects is attached as an inclosure.

j. No interceptor or identification action taken. Sighting of objects was not reported to Commander [redacted] until approximately fifteen to thirty minutes after they were observed.

[redacted] confirmed time and place of sighting and stated he was of the opinion that the light in the sky was a reflection of a plane or light reflected off an automobile windshield. [redacted] could give no further account of the sighting.

UNCLASSIFIED







[redacted]

1D-OSI 24-0-259

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION:

Two (2) copies of this report will be forwarded to the Commanding General, Air Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, Attention: MCIS. No further action taken by this District.

1 Incl:
Photo of objects (trip)

ROBERT H. WAYLAND, Jr.
Major, USAF
District Commander

cc: CG, AMC, w/Incl (dup)

UNCLASSIFIED

[redacted]

[redacted]